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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

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HEADLINES

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OPINION MAKERS
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Merkel to Rice: We All Need the CIA - Zaman
CIA Transfers Secret Detention Centers to Africa - Yeni
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Suicide Attacks against Police Academy Kill 56 in Baghdad -
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Military Plane Crashes in Baghdad, 119 Killed - Zaman
20,000 Muslims Call for Global Peace in Britain - Yeni Safak
Tories Pick Young Leader Cameron - Radikal

BRIEFING

Gul: Outlanders in Kirkuk to be Removed from Ballot Lists: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said on Tuesday that people who are not residents of Kirkuk will be removed from the ballot lists before the upcoming legislative elections in December in Iraq. Gul told reporters at the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit in Jeddah that many Iraqis had migrated to the oil-rich northern Iraqi city following the toppling of Saddam Hussein by US forces. Gul said he had sent a letter to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on the issue, adding that the UN, backed by the US, has been working on the issue. According to the Iraqi Constitution, the final status of Kirkuk is to be determined by a referendum in 2007.

Barzani Wants to Visit Turkey on Eve of Iraqi Polls: On the eve of Iraqi legislative elections, the President of the Kurdistan regional administration Massoud Barzani wants to pay a courtesy visit to Turkey on December 12 following the meetings of former Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, Turkmen leader Sadettin Ergec and the Shiite Vice-President Adel Abdul Mahdi in Ankara, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Barzani has been drawing reactions with his statements regarding the establishment of a Kurdish state in case of a civil war, and the demographic structure of Kirkuk, according to diplomatic sources, who expect Ankara to ask the KDP leader about his attitude toward the PKK. "Cumhuriyet" says that Barzani will visit Turkey in his capacity as the leader of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), not as the President of Kurdistan regional administration. Iraqi sources said that if Barzani is vetoed by Ankara, President Talabani may pay a visit to Turkey. Kurdish representatives insist on visiting Turkey

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before the elections in Iraq, but Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) officials told "Cumhuriyet" that Ankara preferred such a visit to happen after the polls.

FBI's Mueller To Visit Turkey: The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Robert Mueller will pay a 'surprise visit' to Turkey on Thursday, "Milliyet" reports. Mueller is on a tour of inspection of FBI units in foreign countries. He will stop over in Ankara before returning to the US. On Friday, Mueller will meet Turkish Security Director General Gokhan Aydiner and will have lunch with senior security officials. Anonymous sources say that the Mueller visit is aimed at examining al-Qaida-linked organizations in Turkey. "Milliyet" underlines that the visit was occurring in a time of heated speculation about CIA planes landing in Turkey. Meanwhile, "Sabah" reports that deputy director general for security, Emin Arslan, scheduled to hold a meeting with Mueller, had been recently sacked. Arslan was in charge of the implementation of EU projects on security issues.

Gonul in the US: Defense Minister Vecdi Gonul told the press in Washington yesterday that he has conveyed to Secretary Rumsfeld Turkey's unease with regard to the

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terrorist PKK organization. Gonul said he also talked with Rumsfeld about military equipment purchases. 'We discussed the ways to overcome the financing of Seahawk helicopters and how to increase Turkey's share in production of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF,) Gonul said. Gonul noted that Turkey was ready to meet Iraq's construction, fuel oil, water, food, and electricity needs. Gonul also said that the annual conference of Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) held in Washington will discuss issues such as WMD, border security, peacekeeping, exchange and technology sharing, regional maneuvers for 2006, and reorganization of KFOR in Kosovo. Gonul said Turkey has 17 officers assigned in Southeastern Europe Brigade's HQ, and 30 staff in communications unit. 255 Turkish troops will be assigned to the brigade when its mission starts in Afghanistan next year.

Turkey Had Nuclear Bombs During the Cold War: CNN-Turk reported on Wednesday that Turkey had kept NATO nuclear bombs on its territory from the beginning of the Cold War until the 1980s. The US-made 20 kiloton nuclear bombs were deployed at four military airports in Turkey to be used for NATO operations. CNN-Turk claimed that a special nuclear fleet had been established at the eastern province of Malatya airport against a possible Soviet threat. The bombs were reportedly as strong as the bombs dropped on Nagasaki during World War II.

Tuzmen Meets Iraqi Housing Minister Jafar: State Minister Kursad Tuzmen said after meeting with the Iraqi Minister of Housing and Construction, Jasim Muhammad Jafar, on Tuesday that Turkey wanted to increase bilateral trade with Iraq to 10 billion USD in the next two years. Tuzmen also noted that the amount of money owed by Iraq to Turkish oil products exporters has exceeded 800 million USD, and asked Jafar that the payment be made as soon as possible. Tuzmen asked Jafar to solve the problem concerning the fees collected by Iraqi authorities from Turkish businessmen and companies at the Halil Ibrahim border crossing. Tuzmen said the fees impaired the competitiveness of Turkish companies. He added that Turkish contractors working in northern Iraq carried their money in bags, and urged Iraq to improve banking services in the region. Tuzmen also stressed that an agreement on the prevention of double taxation must be signed between the two countries. Jafar indicated that Iraq

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needs three million new homes by 2010, adding that a market of 120 billion USD awaits Turkish firms. Jafar stressed that Baghdad allocated 500 million USD for highway construction, and invited Turkish contractors to join the project.

Erdogan Tours New Zealand, Australia: Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, in New Zealand on a state visit, told a conference on Turkey and the EU held at Canterbury University that all Turkish citizens, including Kurds, can enter parliament or become businessmen. Turkey's only problem, he said, is separatism. 'There are Turks, Kurds, Georgians, Abkhazians, Albanians and Bosnians living in Turkey, and they are all intermingled. It is religion that links these ethnic groups with each other. Kurds are represented in parliament and are appointed as senior officials in Turkey. There are also Kurds among the leading businessmen of Turkey,' Erdogan said. On Cyprus, Erdogan said Turkey supports solution and called on the Greek Cypriots to do so as well. Erdogan added that he would do his best for a settlement on the divided island. On Turkey's EU drive, Erdogan said the EU can become a global power only by admitting Turkey as a member. Erdogan later moved on to Melbourne to meet with officials and to participate in a conference on the 'Alliance of Civilizations' at Melbourne University. Erdogan will travel today to Canberra to meet Prime Minister John Howard and Australian cabinet ministers.

Trial of Turkish Terror Suspects Continue in Belgium: Turkish papers report that a court in Bruges, Belgium turned down a request by the defense counsel of 11 members of Turkey's outlawed Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP-C) to transfer the case to the High Criminal Court, ruling that a trial of members of a criminal organization is within its jurisdiction. Fehriye Erdal, one of the suspects in the killing of prominent Turkish businessman Ozdemir Sabanci and his two colleagues in 1996, is among the 11 DHKP-C members charged in the case. Ankara's earlier requests for Erdal's extradition was rejected by Belgian authorities over concerns that she may be sentenced to capital punishment in Turkey. The Bruges court will continue hearing the case on January 10.

EU Not Happy with Babacan, Slow Pace of Talks with Turkey: European Union (EU) diplomats are complaining about the slow

pace of talks with Turkey, stressing that the efforts of Turkey's chief negotiator, Ali Babacan, are 'inadequate' in coordinating the accession process, "Cumhuriyet" reports. The diplomats claim that accession negotiations can not be carried out by someone who has other responsibilities at the same time (Babacan is also a state minister responsible for the Turkish economy). EU diplomats want Turkey to carry out its relations with the EU through a single institution. In Turkey, each of the 23 ministries has its own EU unit, plus monitoring groups and integration boards. 'As a result, it takes quite a long time to complete a task. The tasks should be carried out by a single institution, such as the General Directorate for EU Affairs,' EU sources told "Cumhuriyet."

EDITORIAL OPINION: Rice in Europe; Iraq

"Torture and Terror and the CIA"

Hasan Cemal opined in the mainstream "Milliyet" (12/7): "The issue of CIA planes and CIA secret prisons is not something that one can simply consider the dark side of fighting against terrorism. The issue is too serious to argue that 'the values of human rights sometimes are lost while

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fighting against terrorism.' However the Bush administration thinks that way. Secretary Rice, on her European tour, did not use different rhetoric. She not only defended the administration's practice regarding CIA prisons and planes but also left the door open for out-of-law implementations. She also attached the official American rhetoric about respecting human rights and standing against torture to her CIA-related arguments. And she was not convincing at all. The Bush administration has a very bad record on the issues of law and human rights for a long time. In democracies, the state binds itself with law and respects human rights. A democratic state should not conduct terror and must remain within the boundaries of law and values of human rights."

"The Value of the Sunnis"

Abdulhamit Bilici wrote in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (12/7): "As a tactical step, The US has to cooperate with the Iraqi Sunnis. Everybody agrees that insurgency cannot end and stability in Iraq cannot be achieved unless a full integration of Sunni Arabs is ensured. President Bush is desperately in need of a success story in Iraq particularly after the decline of his popularity and the emergence of other scandals, including the CIA planes. Given the current situation, the only chances the White House has for good news are Sunni participation in the elections, a gradual decrease in insurgency incidents and a pull out of American forces. Therefore the US has finally started working on a dialogue with Sunni Arabs, overcoming their Sunni-phobia following the events of September 11."

"Upcoming Elections in Iraq"

Yilmaz Oztuna wrote in the conservative-nationalist "Turkiye" (12/7): "Elections will be held in Iraq next week. The US is waiting for the new government to be formed after the elections to pull out of Iraq. This way, the US will be able to say 'Iraq was freed from Saddam and a democracy was established in Iraq'. Of course, the concept of democracy in Iraq is debatable but, never mind, the initiatives for democracy should be started from somewhere. No one should look down on these initiatives. Washington will relax if the Sunni Arabs participate at the elections. This way the resistance to the occupation will weaken, terrorist actions will decrease and the international-professional terrorist organization members will leave the country gradually. Turkey supports this American plan. Turkey wants the occupation in Iraq to end and the Iraqis to take over the administration. Will the Americans really pull out of Iraq? The answer is yes. Actually they are getting impatient to leave Iraq. But, they are waiting to

complete the deployment of their forces in four main bases in Iraq. This way the US will be able to control Iraq, and its oil reserves will be under its control as well. And this situation will continue until the last drop of oil comes out of Iraqi reserves, which will be around the end of the 21st century."

WILSON